

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CU-04 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /078 W
-----040215 041524Z /40

R 021630Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 194
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRAZZAVILLE 0121

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PINT CG US
SUBJ: US RELATIONS WITH CONGO

1. CHARGE IS DEPARTING BRAZZAVILLE TO RETURN TO DEPT FOR CONSULTATIONS

FEB 2. WHILE WE HAD PLANEED TO PROVIDE GENERAL WRAP-UP MESSAGE PRIOR
TO DEPARTURE, BELIEVE IT WOULD BE MORE TIMELY AND RELEVANT TO DRAFT
ONE FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF CURRENT NGOUABI ASSASSINATION TRIAL.
PROSECUTION IS ENDING ITS CASE, AND DEVELOPMENTS OVER CONCLUDING WEEK
OF THE ROCESS LIKELY WILL SHAPE INTERNAL GOCB DVELOPMENTS FOR TIME
TO COME. CABINET CHANGES ALSO MAY BE COMING UP, WITH POSSIBLE ROLE FOR

COMMANDANT RAOUL.

2. UNMISTAKEN TO DATE HAS BEEN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE FORM AND CON-

TENT OF CONGOLESE "SOCIALISM". PRES YHOMBY-OPANGO HAS BEEN
WORKING TO ATTRACT CAPITALISM FROM WEST, PARTICULARLY UNITED STATES,
AWARE THAT WE DO NOT SEEK CLIENT-STATE RELATIONSHIP. AT SAME TIME,
HOWEVER, DESPITE ITS FEELINGS ABOUT FRANCE, MILITARY COMMITTEE
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(CMP) RECOGNIZES THAT FRENCH ROLE IS VITAL IN ECONOMY, AND IS TAKING
NEW LOOK AT HOW IT MAY BE AUGMENTED. COOPERATION MINISTER GALLEY'S
VISIT (SEPTEL) WAS SIGNIFICANT IN THIS REGARD. MEANWHILE, SOCIALIST
RHETORIC DRONES ON. YET CONGOLESE ARE REALIZING MORE AND MORE THAT
SOVIET INTERESTS HERE MAY BE SECONDARY TO THEIR DESIRES TO BE WELL
PLACED SHOULD ZAIRE SITUATION DETERIORATE.

3. CONCERNING OUR OWN RELATIONS, DEPT MIGHT GET FLAVOR OF CONGOLESE ENTHUSIASM BY OUR CITING JUST A FEW THINGS WHICH WE HAVE SEEN WITHIN SPACE OF LAST FEW DAYS: CONGOLESE HAVE OFFICIALY ASKED FOR A PEACE CORPS PROGRAM. BAKER-SANDERS VISIT WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL. AMERICAN

OIL PEOPLE AT POINTE-NOIRE TELL US CONGOLESE HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY CORDIAL IN THEIR RELATIONS. SECRETARY-GENERAL OF MINFONAFF ORGANIZED DINNER IN HONOR OF VISITING DESK OFFICER KATES. POINTE-NOIRE CULTURAL ORGANIZATION PLEADED TO US FOR MOVIE PROJECTOR AND AMERICAN FILMS. LOCAL HOTEL IN POINTE-NOIRE HAD "AMERICAN NIGHT", WITH US FLAGS HANGING IN RESTAURANT OVER BUFFET FEATURING AMERICAN DISHES, AND CHEF'S TOQUE BEARING SMALLER VERSION OF FLAG. AND, JUST AFTER CMP MEMBER, ARMY HEAD NGOLLO, ASKED FOR GRANT TO ENABLE HIS NEPHEW TO ATTEND CUSTOMS SCHOOL AND POLICE ACADEMY IN US, CULTURE MINISTER CALLED

TO ASK HOW SOON IT WOULD TAKE FOR US TO CRANK UP A VISIT BY THE BOSTON CELTICS. WE THEN LEFT TO TAKE A PASTING FROM THE CONGOLESE NATIONAL YOUTH GROUP, WHICH HAD INVITED EMBASSY STAFF TO PLAY VOLLEY-BALL AND, SEEING OUR UNCERTAIN ATHLETIC PROWESS, HAS SINCE PROPOSED A WEEKLY SPORTS PROGRAM.
KATZEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BRAZZA00121
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780054-0029
Format: TEL
From: BRAZZAVILLE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197802103/aaaadisi.tel
Line Count: 83
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5c756dcd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3434712
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US RELATIONS WITH CONGO
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CG, US, CF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5c756dcd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014